

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PREPARATION PROVIDER MONTHLY EMAIL

Dear Believe and Prepare Community,

Greetings to all of you. Over the past seven months, I have served as the Executive Director of Educator Certification and Credentialing. Effective February 5, 2024, the Division of Educator Development and the Division of Certification and Credentialing have been combined. With this organizational change, I am honored to now serve as Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Educator Talent and Workforce Development.

There was already so much crossover between the two divisions that this shift should not have a significant impact on your work. Do know that a focus will be on customer service and stakeholder engagement. As fellow members of the field, we value your opinions.

Christy Bellue, Director of Educator Certification, will serve the division as Chief of Staff. Paula Bell is now Director of Educator Credentialing, and Rebecca Stephenson will serve as the Director of Educator Preparation and Accountability. In addition, the division will also include a new Director of Educator Development, which has yet to be filled. These individuals and the rest of our team are committed to excellence and look forward to serving you.

I look forward to working with and alongside each of you. Should you need assistance, I can be reached via email at arthur.joffrion@la.gov or by cell phone at 985-860-4941.

Arthur M. Joffrion, Jr., Ed.D.
Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Educator Talent and Workforce Development

UPCOMING DEADLINES

February 16: Deadline to [apply](#) for tickets for aspiring educators to attend TLS

February 29: ETS Reports Resolution Period Closes

March 15: [Teacher Leader Summit registration](#) deadline

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 15: HQIM Support [Office Hours](#)

February 16: Regional Educators Rising Conference at LSU-Alexandria

February 29: Louisiana State Educators Rising conference at ULM

February 29: Initial Verification of Program Completer Rosters Due in FTP

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Preparation Provider Monthly Webinar

Please join the next monthly webinar on Wednesday, February 28.

Webinar Details:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 28, 10 - 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/440246097>

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- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 440 246 097

Please contact rebecca.stephenson@la.gov with questions.

High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) and Professional Learning

Teacher Preparation Providers (TPPs) have identified purchasing HQIM as a financial barrier to providing quality experiences for their candidates. LDOE is guiding TPPs with the purchase and implementation of HQIM, most chosen by local school systems. This assistance will help better align coursework with Birth-12 clinical experiences and more strongly prepare graduates for their Louisiana classrooms.

Deans and Directors will be receiving an email at the end of the month with their allocation, a survey to gather information and assurances, and directions on the processes. The following office hours will be held to answer questions and offer support.

Date and Time: February 15 at 10 a.m.
Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93514104094>
Meeting ID: 935 1410 4094

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

We're counting down the days until the annual [Teacher Leader Summit](#) – May 28th through May 30th! Join us in New Orleans for our annual professional learning conference, bringing together Louisiana's birth to grade 12 educators and content experts. [Registration](#) is open and will close March 15, or at sellout. Join Louisiana educators as we begin "Leading the Next Level" and preparing for the 2024-2025 school year.

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

Aspiring Educators Attending 2024 Teacher Leader Summit Survey

The LDOE has a limited number of [2024 Teacher Leader Summit registration vouchers](#) for aspiring educators across the state. Also, for high school students only, there will be limited funding available to assist with the lodging and transportation expenses to attend Summit. The [registration vouchers](#), as well as the [lodging and transportation funding](#), will be based on system/program need, and considered on a first-come, first-served basis. To apply for this support, please complete this [survey](#) by **Friday, February 16 at 5:00 p.m.**

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

ETS Reports Resolution Period

ETS Resolution Period Opening Announcement emails were sent out on February 1, 2024. The Title II Summary and Assessment Pass Rate Reports are now available for download from the ETS Title II website: <https://tlcs.ets.org>. These reports include Praxis pass rates for all students enrolled during

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academic year 2022-23 and completers from the two prior years.

If you are the Title II coordinator for your Teacher Preparation Provider and did not receive the email on February 1, 2024, please contact title2@ets.org

Pre-Educator Pathway Site Visit

System Leads, Teacher Leaders, and Postsecondary Teacher Preparation Partners are invited to attend a Learning Visit for a day of learning and community building. During Learning Visits, participants will have an opportunity to observe Grow Your Own work that is being done in another school system and strategize to improve Grow Your Own efforts in their system or preparation program. Please use this [registration link](#) to sign up for a visit.

- St. Bernard/New Orleans- March 5
- Bossier Parish- April 16

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Pre-Educator Curriculum

The LDOE is creating a pre-educator pathway open-source curriculum that will be free to all school systems.

The curriculum materials should be available to school systems for use by December 2024.

The selected vendor will be relying on the expertise of Louisiana educators across the state. More details about opportunities to engage in the development of these materials will be provided in the coming months.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Teacher Preparation: Computer Science (5652) Praxis Exam

The LDOE has partnered with the Northshore Regional STEM Center to offer a free Computer Science Praxis preparation course to all public and public charter 6-12 teachers. The training will help teachers prepare for the Computer Science (5652) Praxis exam to add a certification to their teaching license. Please share this information with your students.

Four cohorts will be offered as 100% virtual trainings with a fifth cohort offered in person, at Southeastern Louisiana University in June. [Registration](#) is now open for the [Energize Project](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

K-3 Literacy Screener

State law mandates that all kindergarten through third-grade students participate in a single statewide literacy screening three times per year. This includes students with IEPs or IAPs, English learners, non-readers, and students who qualify for alternate assessment based on the [K-2 Alternate Assessment Participation Decision-making Tool](#) for K-2 and the LEAP Connect criteria for grade 3.

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Amplify was chosen as the vendor for the statewide screener that will be used by all public school systems for the mandated screening.

- **Amplify:** The name of the publisher providing the testing platform
- **mCLASS:** The name of the screening technology platform
- **DIBELS 8th:** The name of the actual screening instrument (this is the same screener that was used in the fall by all school systems)

Please share this information with your literacy instructors. For questions about testing administration, contact assessment@la.gov. For questions about policy and data-driven decision-making, contact LouisianaLiteracy@la.gov.

ELA Guidebooks

- ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) [FUEL \(Fluency Utilized to Engage Learners\)](#) overview available
 - ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) unit-aligned lessons to support fluency
 - FUEL materials available on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) spring 2024
- ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024)
 - Overview [webinar recording](#) is now available
 - [Overview document](#)
 - [Writing progression](#)

Please share this information with your ELA instructors. Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with any questions.

Geaux Teach Scholarship Program

Act 463 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature established the Geaux Teach Program, which provides scholarships to students who are enrolled in teacher preparation programs at the state's postsecondary institutions that are approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Funding is also available to students attending certified alternative teacher preparation programs approved by BESE.

Students may receive up to \$5,000 annually to cover the cost of tuition fees, textbooks, and instructional materials required for enrollment.

Additional information about the Geaux Teach Program, including eligibility requirements, the [Geaux Teach Application](#), and answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) may be accessed on the [LOSFA website](#).

Please contact deborah.paul@la.gov with questions.

Certification Reminders

Certification Policy Revisions. Policy proposed and adopted at the January BESE meeting include: adoption of new exams in response to the legislative session and commission recommendations; alignment across bulletins or legislation, removing duplicative language, and reorganizing information; updated requirements for foreign equivalency transcripts; removal of unused or obsolete certification (EEL and Pre-PL); updated OFAT renewal requirements; certification simplification; and technical edits. The

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policy was adopted as NOI, and some sections have additional future effective dates. More details will be provided in the coming months as the effective dates approach. For most entries, the applicable effective date is listed.

Praxis Exams Adopted. As a result of recommendations from the Computer Science Education Advisory Commission, the LDOE proposed and BESE adopted a Computer Science exam (5652). The passing score is in alignment with the ETS Multiple State Standard Setting Study recommendation of 149. Policy is also allowing a transitional period where the current 30 semester hours of coursework for initial certification can be used for three years. Any candidate currently enrolled in a teacher preparation program for CS will have until 2027 to complete their certification program with semester hours instead of the adopted exam.

Literacy Exam Requirements. Beginning **January 1, 2024**, **Out-of-State** applicants, authorized to teach grades K-3, and not meeting exam requirements with experience will need to take the Teaching of Reading exam **in addition** to content and pedagogy exams. **Initial applicants** completing **in-state** preparation programs already enrolled in the year-long residency and holding either the PL or R credential prior to **January 1, 2025**, are not subject to taking the Teaching of Reading exam. **Add-on policy** is effective **September 1, 2024**. Keep in mind if an applicant is applying for initial certification **with an add-on**, if the add-on area requires the exam, the Certification Office will be looking for the exam effective 9/1/2024.

New Literacy Exam Option. BESE adopted the Louisiana Elementary Multiple-Subjects exam, which includes as a part of the English Language Arts subtest, the Teaching of Reading exam. It :

- Allows for an option with the same number of exams as currently required
- Includes grades K-3 (PK-3, 1-5, Special Education areas)

The passing score increases over time to gradually increase Science of Reading skill mastery for teacher candidates. The current Teaching of Reading exam (5205/5206) is not being phased out; neither is the current Elementary Multiple subjects exam (5001). Effective June 1, 2024, the newly adopted test will be available through ETS.

Add-On Literacy Requirements. For add-on purposes, general reading and literacy hours may be fulfilled with the indicated semester hours, equivalent contact hours, or passing the adopted Teaching of Reading exam. Successful completion of the BESE-approved literacy foundations training **may** be accepted for the number of hours approved per program. Anyone using LTRS training will need to submit all LTRS certificates of completion to LouisianaLiteracy@la.gov for verification. The email verification from LouisianaLiteracy@La.gov must be included with the add-on application to receive credit for the training for add-on purposes. Effective 9/1/2024, teachers wishing to add-on certification areas granting authorization to teach grades K-3 and Special Education add-on areas will require the general literacy semester or contact hours AND Teaching of Reading Elementary exam. For add-on purposes, 5205/7002 cannot satisfy both the literacy hours requirement and the Teaching of Reading exam requirement. Please use the [Literacy Exam and Coursework Guidance for Preparation Providers](#) guidance document for additional information.

Foreign Equivalency Transcripts. New foreign equivalency transcript requirements include that a

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credentialing agency must be an endorsed member in good standing with either:

- [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services \(NACES\)](#)
- [Association of International Credential Evaluators \(AICE\)](#).

The adopted policy is effective **May 20**. Updated information is available on teachlouisiana.net.

Please contact certification@la.gov with questions.

Certification Monthly Call

The Certification Office conducts a monthly call devoted solely to certification. Participants for this call should include individuals responsible for the implementation of certification policy in teacher preparation programs and school systems. Topics include legislative and policy updates, certification processing updates, and frequently asked questions. It will generally fall on the third **Monday** of each month at **10:30 a.m.** Any changes due to BESE meetings or holidays will be included on the [school system support calendar](#). The next call is **Monday, February 19**.

Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97801045748?pwd=N1JobWIDU1gvNnNYQk40Wjl3YmpxUT09>

Meeting ID: 978 0104 5748

Passcode: 959091

Please contact Arthur.Joffrion@la.gov or Christy.Bellue@la.gov with questions.

TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL

Program Approval Notification of Pending Decisions

Teacher, early childhood ancillary certificate program, educational leader proposals for initial approval, and mentor and content leader training proposals are accepted and considered by BESE twice per year. A panel of reviewers will evaluate proposals that meet all initial submission requirements to ensure they meet policy requirements.

Notification of pending decision letters has begun going out this week. Round 2 submissions must be submitted within seven days of receipt.

The fall cycle is quickly approaching and will open on May 1. See the [Preparation Library](#) for program [approval resources](#), including application rubrics. Programs submitting applications for review should use these materials to ensure their applications align with policy requirements.

Cycle	Application Window Opens	Notice of Intent Due	Full Application Due	Round 1 Evaluation Period Begins	Notification of Pending Decisions	Round 2 Evaluation and Notification (as needed)	BESE Consideration
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Spring	September 1	October 1	December 10	December 11	February 15	TBD	April 16
Fall	May 1	June 1	July 10	July 11	August 26	TBD	October TBD

If you have any questions, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov.

TEACHER PREPARATION QUALITY RATING SYSTEM

2022-2023 Completer Rosters Initial Verification

The window to verify 2022-2023 TPP completer rosters for Performance Profiles and upload completer consent forms opened on **February 1, 2024**, and will close on **February 29, 2024**, in the [File Transfer Portal \(FTP\)](#). An email with instructions was sent on January 31.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

On-Site Review Updates

The Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System (TPQRS) includes Preparation Program Experience as one of the domains. An on-site review by a third party is conducted to understand the quality of the programs once at least every four years. There will be no on-site reviews this fall. The LDOE will soon be providing more details about the next cycle of on-site reviews.

Each provider received their on-site review timeframe during the performance profile debriefing calls. If your assigned on-site review interferes with any other accreditation timeframe, please email believeandprepare@la.gov to request a change.